

45. The method of Claim 33, wherein the subject is suffering from hepatic cirrhosis.--

Please add the following claims.

--46. (New) The method of Claim 30, wherein reducing the content of reductive glutathione in macrophages in the subject comprises administering an effective amount of a cystine derivative to the patient.

47. (New) The method of Claim 31, wherein reducing the content of reductive glutathione in macrophages in the subject comprises administering an effective amount of a cystine derivative to the patient.--

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 31 has been amended for clarity. Newly-added Claims 46-47 are supported by the specification at pages 4-60 and the original claims, especially Claim 3. No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by these amendments.

REMARKS

Claims 30-47 are now pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a method of inducing a Th2 response in a subject, comprising reducing the content of reductive glutathione in macrophages in the subject, thereby (a) increasing the capability of the macrophages to produce IL-6 and (b) decreasing the capability of the macrophages to produce IL-12 and NO. See Claim 30.

The present invention also relates to a method of suppressing cellular immune responses in a subject by skewing the Th1/Th2 balance to Th2, comprising reducing the content of reductive glutathione in the macrophages in the subject. See Claim 31. The specification describes how the redox status in the macrophages controls the immune system

in detail and examples for the claimed method of reducing glutathione in macrophages are also provided. See pages 5-60 of the specification.

The rejection of Claims 30-45 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

The claims are enabled if one skilled in the art can appreciate the metes and bounds of the claims in light of the specification. Thus, the claims are not interpreted in a vacuum. Rather, they are interpreted in light of the teachings of the specification. The present application meets that standard.

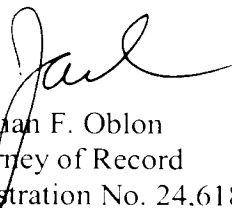
The present specification provides a detailed teaching for inducing a Th2 response in a subject and suppressing cellular immune responses in a subject by skewing the Th1/Th2 balance to Th2. See pages 5-60. In particular, the specification describes 26 working examples which demonstrate the practice of the claimed invention. One reading the pending claims in light of the specification will readily appreciate the metes and bounds of those claims. Accordingly, the claims are definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding newly-added Claims 46 and 47, the specification provides a detailed description of the cystine derivative at pages 9-10. Accordingly, these claims are definite as well.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

James J. Kelly, Ph.D.
Registration No. 41,504



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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

--31. (Amended) A method of suppressing cellular immune responses in a subject by skewing the Th1/Th2 balance [in macrophages] to Th2, comprising reducing the content of reductive glutathione in the macrophages in the subject.

Claims 46-47 (New).--